

1/26/06

September 15, 2006



United States Patent and Trademark Office
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Re: Application # 10/783,294
Keith H. Hebron – Canopy Lift System (Truck Topper Lift System)

Attention: Coletta, Lori L – Art Unit 3612

This letter is in response to your letter dated 08/15/2006 and to our conversation of 09/08/2006.

Thank you for the images sent to me from the Hoffman 281 patent. I find it much easier to relate to images than words.

I have changed the terminology in my claims from vehicle canopy to truck topper, and I thank you for your comments on this matter. In addition, you have my permission to change the remainder of the patent application to reflect the new terminology. You will find the new claims attached to this letter.

The above mentioned change now reflects the only commonality of my application and Hoffman 281 is the mechanical lift system. Only those “skilled in the art” would recognize that the Hoffman 281 mechanics are ideal for the purpose of which they are intended. They would also recognize that if you reversed the mechanics of the Hoffman 281 apparatus, it would lift the tonneau cover from the front. This, however, would mean that you have to hinge the tonneau cover on top of the tailgate. If you had thoughts of opening the tonneau cover from either side position of the truck box, the process would entail placing the lift arms 30 on the front bed 14 of the truck box and on the top of the tailgate 15. This would mean that the tailgate 15 would be inoperative. Using the Hoffman 281 apparatus in any other position other than what it was first intended would indicate a definite lack of knowledge and skill in this art. It is therefore concluded that the Hoffman 281 apparatus would not be used in my application regarding truck toppers.